

44. LEPTERODIUS GULARIS.

LepteroDIus gularis (Bosc); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvi. p. 114.

Herodias gularis Reichen. Vög. Deutsch-Ost-Afr. p. 66 (1894).

Ardea gularis Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 157 (1896).
a, ad. Witu.

45. PTERNISTES HUMBOLDTI.

Pternistes humboldti Peters; Ogilvie Grant, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 176; Shelley, B. Africa, i. p. 179 (1896).

No. 1, ♂ ad. Witu, June 28, 1891.—Iris brown; legs bright coral-red; bill, etc., dull dark red.

XII.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XLVII. & XLVIII.

No. XLVII. (October 31st, 1897.)

THE forty-sixth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 20th of October, 1897. *Chairman*: PHILIP CROWLEY, Esq. Thirty-four Members and ten guests were present.

Mr. H. L. POPHAM made some remarks on his recent journey to the Yenesei, and exhibited a clutch of four eggs of the Curlew Sandpiper (*Tringa subarquata*) which he had taken on an island in the Yenesei in July last, when he shot the female bird from the nest. These were the first authentic eggs of this bird on record.

Mr. H. J. PEARSON and Colonel FEILDEN gave a brief account of their expedition to Novaya Zemlya during the past summer. Mr. Pearson exhibited a series of clutches of the eggs of the Little Stint (*Tringa minuta*), as well as some beautiful photographs of nests and eggs of the various birds observed on the voyage. The narrative of the trip was related by Colonel Feilden, and was rendered specially interesting by the photographs taken and exhibited by Mr. Pearson.

COUNT VON BERLEPSCH exhibited his unique specimen of *Pipra opalizans* Pelz., from Pará; also a set of skins of the interesting *Idiopsar brachyurus* Cass., hitherto represented by one specimen in the U.S. National Museum at Washington, and a fine skin of *Chrysolampis chlorolemus* Elliot (= *Lampornis calolema* Elliot), of which the true locality had been till now unknown. It had been received direct from Bahia, and was stated to be the third specimen known in collections.

COUNT VON BERLEPSCH also laid on the table specimens of three new birds from S.W. Colombia, viz., a *Carpodectes*, a Parrot of the genus *Pionopsitta*, and a *Myiadestes* allied to *M. leucotis* Tsch. These would be described in the forthcoming number of the 'Journal für Ornithologie.'

Lastly, COUNT VON BERLEPSCH exhibited a fine new Tanager of the genus *Buthraupis*, recently sent by Mr. F. W. H. Rosenberg from North-western Ecuador, and named in honour of the Hon. Walter Rothschild. The unique specimen belonged to the Tring Museum, and was diagnosed as follows:—

BUTHRAUPIS ROTHSCILDI, sp. n.

B. corpore supra subtusque cum alis caudaque extus obscure nigro-cyaneis, uropygio lætiore; capite gulaque nigrescentibus, torque jugulari lato pulchre aurantio-flavo; tectricibus, subalaribus subcaudalibusque necnon hypochondriis pure flavis; rostro pedibusque nigris. Al. 94 mm., caud. 53, culm. 16 $\frac{3}{4}$, tars. 23.

Hab. Cachabé, N.W. Ecuador (500 feet).

This bird was stated to be allied to *B. edwardsi* of Elliot from S.W. Colombia, but to differ in having the back and belly blue-black, the sides of the head black, and the under tail- and wing-coverts bright yellow, all these parts being olive-green in the other species, and in having a broad band of fine orange-yellow on the breast, there being but a small yellow spot in the middle of the breast in *B. edwardsi*.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT stated that there was in the British Isles a species of Tit hitherto overlooked by all observers. This was the *Parus salicarius* of C. L. Brehm, which had been quite recently rediscovered in Germany by Herr Kleinschmidt. *Parus salicarius* differed from the common British Marsh-Tit in having the crown of a less glossy and more brownish black, the flanks strongly washed with rufous, and in the dimensions being slightly different; its call-note also was different, and it seemed to keep strictly to dark, shadowy, and swampy places. It was Mr. Hartert's opinion that *P. salicarius* was a distinct species; and Herr Kleinschmidt seemed even to think that the British form of *P. salicarius* might be subspecifically separated from the Continental form; this, however, seemed still an open question.

Mr. HARTERT exhibited a skin of the beautiful Pigeon called *Osculatia purpurea* Salvad., from N. Ecuador. Only the type in the British Museum was hitherto known.

He stated that Mr. Albert Meek had found *Paradisea intermedia* at Collingwood Bay in the north-eastern part of British New Guinea; and that Mr. Rothschild had received some more skins of *Macgregoria pulchra* from Mount Scratchley.

Mr. HARTERT also exhibited a skin of a new species of *Tephras* from the island of Ruk, in the Caroline group, which he characterized as follows:—

TEPHRAS RUKI, sp. n.

♂ ♀. Entirely sepia-brown, the inner webs of the remiges and under wing-coverts lighter, inclining to whitish; the primaries darker, the outer webs bordered with the same colour as the back. Bill black; iris red; tarsi and feet orange-rufous; claws mouse-brown. Total length 135-140 mm., wing 79-80, tail 52-53, culmen 21, tarsus 21. The female a little smaller: wing 77-78 mm., tail 50, culmen 19. Native name "Nikildon."

An example of a new species of *Leptotriccus* was also exhibited by Mr. HARTERT, and described by him as follows:—

LEPTOTRICCUS FLAVIVENTRIS, sp. n.

Quite different from the other two known species of the genus, *L. sylvicola* Licht., of Southern Brazil, and *L. superciliaris* ScL. & Salv., of Central America, in being of a uniform sulphur-yellow colour below, and in having two broad yellow bars across the wing, formed by the yellow tips of the largest and median wing-coverts. The crown was olive-green like the back, as in *L. sylvicola*, while *L. superciliaris* had the head and nape of a dark plumbeous shade. In the markings of the head and in other respects it agreed with its two congeners.

Hab. Ejido and Merida, Venezuela, April 1897 (*Mocquerys*).

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition three new species of birds from Northern Ecuador, which were described as follows:—

CRYPTURUS BERLEPSCHI, sp. n.

Entirely brownish black, the abdomen and thighs vermiculated and washed with dull rufous brown; the under tail-coverts rusty red. Total length 300 mm., wing 180, tarsus 60, culmen 33.

Hab. Cachabé, N. Ecuador, 500 feet.

ODONTOPHORUS PARAMBÆ, sp. n.

♀ *ad.* Forehead, superciliary band, ear-coverts and a band under the eye, breast and abdomen bright chestnut; top of head, nape, wings, back, rump, and tail brownish black, irregularly vermiculated all over with yellowish brown; scapulars with a number of black patches; under wing-coverts brownish grey; flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts dark brown, vermiculated and edged with rufous; chin, throat, and upper breast black, crossed on the lower throat

by a broad white band. Total length about 200 mm., wings 145, tail 40, tarsus 42, culmen 24.

Hab. Paramba, N. Ecuador, 3500 feet.

NEMOSIA ROSENBERGI, sp. n.

Head, neck, and back scarlet, fading into paler orange-scarlet on the rump; upper tail-coverts dull scarlet; wings dark brown, the wing-coverts, outer webs of the primaries and secondaries rufous; under wing-coverts white, the inner edges of the quills salmon-pink. Under surface of body white, the centre of the abdomen and under tail-coverts bright orange-pink. Maxilla black, mandible whitish; feet greenish; iris brown. Total length about 120 mm., wing 69, tail 54, tarsus 15, culmen 15.

Hab. Caehabé, N. Ecuador, 500 feet.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE described the following new species of birds from Uganda and British East Africa:—

BURNESIA UGANDÆ, sp. n.

B. similis B. leucopogoni, Cab., sed abdomine imo et hypochondriis pallidè fulvescentibus, his minimè cinereis distinguenda. Long. tot. 2·7 poll., alæ 2·3, caudæ 2·45.

Hab. Ntebi, Uganda (*F. J. Jackson*). Tingasi (*Emin Pasha: Mus. Brit.*).

SYLVIELLA BARAKA, sp. n.

S. similis S. virenti, sed pileo fusciscenti-brunneo, supercilio pallidè isabellino, facie laterali fusciscente minimè rufâ, gutture vix rufescente, et hypochondriis elarè schistaceis distinguenda. Long. tot. 3 poll., alæ 2.

Hab. Ntebi, Uganda (*F. J. Jackson*).

SYLVIELLA JACKSONI, sp. n.

S. similis S. micruræ, sed major, saturatiùs grisea, et facie laterali, mento et corpore subtùs toto saturatè vinaceis, abdomine quoque eervino distinguenda. Long. tot. 3·7 poll., alæ 2·5.

Hab. Kamassia (*F. J. Jackson*).

XENOCICHLA PALLIDIGULA, sp. n.

X. similis X. flavicollis, sed gulâ dilutè flavâ, remigibus rectricibusque griscescenti-brunneis, olivascenti-viridi margini-

atis, nec rufescenti-brunneis : subtus pallidè olivascens, gastræo medio albido, plumis medialiter griseo striolatis, hypochondriis et subcaudalibus pallidè olivaceis, his latè albido marginatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 9 poll., alæ 4·45.

Hab. Ntebi (*F. J. Jackson*).

BARBATULA JACKSONI, sp. n.

B. similis *B. bilineatæ*, sed gutture et pectoris summi lateribus schistaceo-griseis, tectricibus alarum et secundariis pallidè sulphureo marginatis, et hypochondriis ochrascenti-brunneis distinguenda. Long. tot. 4·4 poll., alæ 2·4.

Hab. Mau (*F. J. Jackson*).

UROBRACHYA NIGRO-NOTATA, sp. n.

U. similis *U. phæniceæ*, sed tectricibus alarum majoribus cinnamomeo-rufis, latè nigro terminatis distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·5 poll., alæ 3·6.

Hab. Witu (*F. J. Jackson*).

Dr. SHARPE exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Claude W. Wyatt, a nest and eggs of the Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza schæniclus*), which had been taken at Basford, near Banbury, in 1894. The season had been very wet, and the birds had provided the nest with a lid made of horsehair, apparently for the better protection of the eggs.

Dr. SHARPE also exhibited a skin of *Lanius ludovicianus*, which had been procured in Andros Island, Bahamas, by Mr. Neville Chamberlain.

In a few remarks on the present state of the Collection of Birds in the British Museum, Dr. SHARPE informed the meeting that on the 11th of September last he had completed his twenty fifth year of service in charge of that collection, and he estimated that the skins had increased in number during that time from about 40,000 to 370,000, and the eggs from about 6000 to 49,000 specimens.

Mr. TEGETMEIER exhibited a skin of a Pheasant which he considered to be a hybrid between *Thaumalea picta* and *Phasianus colchicus*.

The Rev. H. H. SLATER exhibited and made remarks upon a sixth British example of the Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*), which he had obtained on the Norfolk coast on the 27th of August last. It was an adult female, which had evidently bred during the last season, as was shown by the condition of the ovary and oviduct. He thought that by careful search the Barred Warbler might be ascertained to be a breeding species in the Eastern Counties.

No. XLVIII. (November 29th, 1897).

THE forty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of November, 1897. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, Esq., F.R.S. Twenty-nine Members and four guests present.

THE CHAIRMAN gave the following address:—

“There is probably no greater test of the interest taken in a particular subject in these days than the establishment of a journal or periodical specially devoted to its cause. This fact is so obvious that I need not stop to give instances of its being the case. On this occasion, therefore, I propose to offer you a few remarks on the present state and progress of the Journals devoted to the special interests of the *Class Aves* throughout the civilized world, and shall begin with the three which, I think, must be acknowledged by all of us to be the leading authorities on the subject, viz.—(taking them in the order of seniority), the ‘*Journal für Ornithologie*’ of Berlin, ‘*The Ibis*’ of London, and ‘*The Auk*’ of the United States of America.

“The ‘*Journal für Ornithologie*’ was founded by the veteran ornithologist Dr. Jean Cabanis in 1853, and carried on by him with unflinching success for a period of forty-one years. In 1894 it passed into the possession of the ‘*Allgemeine deutsche ornithologische Gesellschaft*,’ and has since that date been not less successfully conducted for that Society by our Honorary Member, Dr. Anton Reichenow, who is

personally well known to many of us. The 'Journal für Ornithologie' is, I may fairly say, to a considerable extent occupied with contributions relating to the Avifauna of Central Europe, but, on glancing over its pages, excellent articles will be found throughout the work which relate to the birds of other parts of the world. The newly-founded German colonies have naturally attracted a large share of attention in the Fatherland, and Dr. Reichenow's memoirs on the birds of Togo-land, on the avifauna of German East Africa and on that of Kaiser-Wilhelms-land, recently published in the 'Journal,' may be mentioned specially as being of very great importance. But the German ornithologists by no means confine themselves to the range of their own colonies. German collectors range over the whole world, and German taxidermists are to be found in nearly every museum as well of the New World as of the Old, and not unfrequently become contributors to the information collected in their national Journal of Ornithology. In other branches of our subject, such as Anatomy, Pterylosis, Nomenclature, and Classification, the 'Journal für Ornithologie' will be found to be likewise replete with information.

"To sing our own praises is a somewhat delicate task, but I think I may say that 'The Ibis,' which was begun by the B.O.U. in 1859, six years later than the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' has, in some respects, had even a more striking career than its predecessor. This of course is mainly owing to the unfailing support it has received from the Members of the B.O.U., now upwards of 300 in number, who have grudged neither time nor money in promoting its success. We have now published six series of 'The Ibis,' each extending over a period of six years, and two 'Index' volumes, which greatly facilitate references to the work, while of a seventh series the third volume is already complete, bringing up the work to the close of the present year. Glancing over the sets in our libraries we notice at once that the more recent volumes have evidently increased in bulk, and, we may also hope, have not diminished as

regards the value of their contents. The special feature that distinguishes 'The Ibis' is, I think I may say, its cosmopolitanism. Englishmen, as we know, and especially English ornithologists, are scattered over the whole world. Their motto, like that of the Royal Engineers, is 'Ubique'; and although there are always a certain number of communications in 'The Ibis' relating to 'British' Birds, the majority of the memoirs either come from correspondents in foreign countries, or are devoted to the description of collections transmitted to headquarters from travellers in distant lands. For example, taking a look for a moment at the recently completed volume for 1897, we find articles on the Birds of British Burmah, Chili, Morocco, the Pyrenees, Siberia, Guiana, Argentina, China, the Red Sea, the Philippine Islands, San Domingo, Central Madagascar, New Guinea, Zulu-land, Nyasa-land, Oudh, and Spitsbergen. It will be seen that our claims to be cosmopolitan in science, although we are at the same time all British patriots to the backbone, have not been put forward without reason. I will not now stop to describe what has been written in 'The Ibis' in other branches of ornithological research during recent years, but I can assure you that the Editors have done their very best to keep the Journal up to the highest standard.

"The third leading journal in Ornithology—'The Auk'—was established by the American Ornithologists' Union in 1884, and the editorship was assigned to Prof. J. A. Allen, under whose well-ordered sway it still continues. As would naturally be expected, 'The Auk' is mainly devoted to promoting a knowledge of the Birds of the New World, and the greater number of its articles relate to what I am pleased still to call the Nearctic Region, although the zoo-geographers of the United States seem to have lately entered into a conspiracy to abolish the use of that convenient term. Of the activity and intelligent zeal of our American brethren in the cause to which we are all devoted there can be no question. Owing to their enthusiasm, of which 'The Auk' itself is a product, there is probably no part of the world the native birds of which

are now so well known as the United States of America. In every part of the Union collections have been made by the correspondents and emissaries of the A.O.U. and transmitted to headquarters, where the specimens have been studied and the results recorded with the utmost diligence. Of late years the American ornithologists have extended their researches into Mexico and Central America. They have also closely surveyed nearly every island of the West Indian Archipelago, and have begun to make winter excursions into the northern borders of South America. On looking into the 14th volume of 'The Auk,' which contains the memoirs published in 1897, we find articles on the birds of Mexico, Guatemala, the Kurile Islands, Venezuela, and Alaska, not to speak of numerous valuable contributions to the study of such questions as nesting-habits, dichromatism, nomenclature, abnormal plumages, and almost every other subject that comes within the grasp of the ornithologist. I may also, perhaps, venture to call special attention to the valuable criticisms on recent literature given in every number of 'The Auk,' which may be always read with profit, even though we may not altogether coincide with the views of the writers.

“ Having said so much about the three principal ornithological journals which at the present epoch are devoted to general Ornithology—*i. e.* to the whole subject, and not to any particular part of it,—I think I need hardly trouble you with disquisitions on the recent progress of journals with a less extended object. There are a considerable number of such publications, as a search in the well-stocked library of the Zoological Society will show to those who wish to consult them; and many of them are making valuable contributions to the knowledge of our favourite science. Among these I may specially mention 'Ornis,' the organ of the Permanent International Ornithological Committee, hitherto edited by Prof. Dr. H. Blasius, and published at Brunswick (it is now in its ninth year of publication); the 'Ornithologisches Jahrbuch' of Victor, Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen, published at Hallein, now in its eighth year; and 'Aquila,' the organ of the Hungarian Central Bureau for Ornithological

Observations, which was commenced in 1894. It is singular that, so far as I know, there has never been a purely ornithological journal started in France; but Italy has lately started an 'Avicula'—*parva sed omnino Italica!* With hearty wishes for success, in which I am sure you will join me, to this youngest, and likewise to every other member of the confraternity of ornithological journals, I have only to ask your kind excuses for having so long occupied your attention."

Mr. F. G. JACKSON, whose return to England was heartily welcomed by the members of the Club, gave an interesting account of the birds observed by him during his three years' residence in Franz Josef Land, and referred especially to the nesting of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). Specimens of the various species collected by the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition were exhibited, and Mr. Howard Saunders, in his remarks on the collection, drew special attention to the occurrence of the Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*) at Cape Flora in June, this being the first record of the species in the Franz Josef group of islands.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited, on behalf of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, skins of some highly interesting species of birds from the Tring Museum: *Macgregoria pulchra* and *Astrapia splendidissima* (with the hitherto undescribed female) from New Guinea, *Myiadestes coracina* from Colombia, *Zosterops babelo* from the Talaut Islands, *Scops alfredi* from Flores, and a female of *Eudynamis honorata*, in nearly complete barred plumage, but retaining still some black feathers of the first plumage, when both males and females were entirely black.

Mr. Hartert was also able to announce that good results might shortly be expected from the expeditions despatched by Mr. Rothschild to the Galapagos Islands and the Upper Orinoco.

Mr. OSBERT SALVIN forwarded descriptions of five species of South-American birds. Four of these were from British

Gniana, whence the specimens had been sent by the late Henry Whitely and received in this country after his death; the fifth was from Mr. Pratt, who was now exploring in the Cauca Valley, Colombia, and had been sent in a collection of birds made at a place called Valdivia, not far from Antioquia, and 3800 feet above the sea-level.

PLATYRRHYNCHUS GRISEICEPS, sp. n.

P. seni similis, sed capite summo multo grisescentiore, dorso pallidiore, et abdomine flavescentiore distinguendus. Long. tota 4·2 poll., alæ 2·6, caudæ 1·4, tarsi 0·55.

Hab. Aunai, British Guiana (*H. Whitely*).

Obs. In his last collection the late Henry Whitely sent several specimens of this species. It is closely allied to *P. senex*, Scl. & Salv., of Eastern Ecuador, and, like the latter, has the concealed spot of the crown pure white, but differs in the points mentioned above.

TODIROSTRUM PICTUM, sp. n.

Suprà olivaceum, dorso medio indistinctè nigro striato; pileo toto, nuclâ et capitis lateribus nigerrimis; loris dimidio superiore, et striâ latâ sub oculos ductâ, albis; gulâ albâ, distinctè nigro striatâ; gastræo reliquo flavo, pectore distinctè et hypochondriis indistinctè nigro striatis; alis nigris, secundariis flavo limbatis, tectricibus majoribus et mediis quoque flavo maculatis; caudâ nigricante, extrorsum flavo limbâtâ; subalaribus albis; rostro et pedibus nigricantibus. Long. tota circa 3·5 poll., alæ 1·6, caudæ 1·2, rostri a rictu 0·6, tarsi 0·6.

Hab. Aunai, British Guiana (*H. Whitely*).

Obs. This species is apparently allied to *T. guttatum*, and has a similar black head, but there is no broad post-orbital yellow stripe, and the throat and area under the eye are white and not yellow as in *T. guttatum*, in which the chin alone is white.

A single specimen was contained in Whitely's last collection.

HAPALOCERCUS STRIATICEPS, sp. n.

H. flaviventri similis, sed multo minor, dorso magis olivaceo et fusco indistinctè striato; capite summo striato, plumis singulis saturatè fuscis fulvo limbatis, areâ infraoculari

nigricante; alis fuscis, sordido albo bistriatis et remigibus eodem colore extrorsum limbatis: rostri maxillâ corylinâ, mandibulâ pallidâ, pedibus corylinis. Long. tota circa 4.0 poll., alæ 1.6, caudæ 1.6, tarsi 0.65, rostri a rictu 0.5.

Hab. Aunai, British Guiana (*H. Whitely*).

CAPSIEMPIS CAUDATA, sp. n.

C. flaveolæ affinis, sed subtus multo pallidior; torque cervicali et gutture fulvo tinctis; notæo fusco olivaceo tincto; loris et fronte strictè albis; alis fuscis, remigibus albido limbatis, tectricibus majoribus et mediis sordido albido terminatis, fasciis duabus distinctis formantibus; caudâ fuscâ, rectricibus externis in pogonio externo et apicibus albidis; rostro et pedibus nigricantibus. Long. tota circa 4.0 poll., alæ 1.95, caudæ 1.85, tarsi 0.7, rostri a rictu 0.5.

Hab. Ourumee, British Guiana (*H. Whitely*).

Obs. Allied to *C. flaveola*, but readily distinguished by the light outer webs and tips of the outer tail-feathers and by other characters.

CAPITO HYPOLEUCUS, sp. n.

Suprà niger; pileo medio et fronte coccineis; nuchâ sordidè albâ; scapularibus utrinque albicantibus ad dorsum medium convergentibus: subtus albus; torque pectorali pallidè fuscâ; hypochondriis leviter flavo lavatis; subalaribus albis; remigibus intus pallidè fuscis: rostro flavido, apice corneo; pedibus plumbeis. Long. tota 8.0 poll., alæ 3.5, caudæ 2.25, tarsi 1.0, rostri a rictu 1.2.

Hab. Valdivia, State of Antioquia, Colombia (alt. 3800 ped.) (*A. E. Pratt*).

Obs. This remarkable *Capito* has no near allies. In having a wholly white throat it resembles *C. maculicoronatus* ♂, but has not the spotted flanks of that species. Its red crown and the white lines along the scapulars and the dusky band across the chest are also points of difference.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited two skins of an apparently new species of *Sturnopastor* from Pachim and Takamen in Siam, collected by Mr. Stanley S. Flower, the Director

of the Royal Museum at Bangkok. He proposed for it the name of

STURNOPASTOR FLOWERI, sp. n.

S. similis S. superciliari, sed suprâ niger, dorso pileo concolore nec brunneo: gutturis nigredine magis extensa, regione præpectoralis quoque nigrâ: corpore reliquo subtus albo, nec vinaceo-griseo adumbrato. Long. tot. 9.0 poll., culm. 1.3, alæ 4.8, caudæ 2.75, tarsi 1.45.

Dr. SHARPE also made some remarks on the Black-headed Orioles of Africa, and pointed out that the Oriole of Gaboon had been hitherto confounded with *O. brachyrhynchus*, from which it differed in being smaller and in having a conspicuous yellow collar, the yellow also being spread over the mantle. He proposed to call it

ORIOLOUS LÆTIOR, sp. n.

Mr. J. I. S. WHITAKER sent for exhibition some specimens of *Sturnus unicolor* procured in Morocco in the spring and summer of the present year. It was evident that the birds killed in June were in the fullest breeding-plumage and had *black* bills, whereas specimens killed in winter and early spring had yellow bills.

Mr. WHITAKER also sent for exhibition skins of two apparently new species of birds from Morocco, which were described briefly as follows:—

GARRULUS CENOPS, sp. n.

G. similis G. minori, sed minor, et facie laterali et gutture toto vinaceis, minimè albis, distinguendus: pileo latè nigro striolato. Long. tot. 12.2 poll., alæ 6.4.

RHODOPECHYS ALIENA, sp. n.

R. similis R. sanguineæ, sed rostro debiliore, superciliis et torque collaris cineraceis, nec fulvescenti-albis vel roseis: gutture pallidè roseo, nec cinnamomeo-brunneo distinguenda. Long. tot. 6.0 poll., alæ 4.1.

The CHAIRMAN exhibited an interesting autograph letter of John Latham, addressed to M. Olivier of Paris, and re-

ferring to a copy of his 'General History of Birds.' The letter was dated "Dartford, Kent, Nov. 10, 1789," and had been presented to the Chairman by Dr. Jean Cabanis.

He also made some remarks on the birds observed by him in Russia, stating that he had been resident for nearly a fortnight, in August and September last, at a country-house in the vicinity of St. Petersburg, and, though principally occupied with other matters, had not failed to pay attention to the ordinary birds of the district. Putting aside the ubiquitous Sparrow, the most common Passerine bird to be seen there at this time of the year was certainly the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*); Spotted Flycatchers, Larks, Yellowhammers, and Siskins were also abundant. The only Thrush seen was *Turdus musicus*; *T. merula*, it was said, was never met with. The ordinary Crow was *C. cornix*, but the Rook (*C. frugilegus*) was likewise observed in flocks on the corn-fields along the Baltic Railway. The Great Black Woodpecker (*Picus martius*) was common in the plantations, and specimens were shot while Mr. Selater was there; and both the Pied Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopus major* and *D. minor*) were said to be frequently met with. For further particulars Mr. Selater referred enquirers to Dr. Büchner's excellent memoir 'Die Vögel des St. Petersburger Gouvernement,' published in 1886, as the best authority on the subject. The Double Snipe (*Gallinula major*) was the favourite object of pursuit of the sportsman at this time of year, and it was certainly an excellent bird for the table.

MR. ROBERT READ exhibited some peculiar varieties of the eggs of the Common Guillemot (*Uria troile*), collected at Flamborough during the past summer, and called attention to the correspondence of their variations with the eggs of the Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and of other birds which bred in the same locality.